

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-52, and 56-65 remain in the application and claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 have been amended hereby. Claims 16 and 53-55 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite its correct dependency from claim 18 instead of from claim 16, as requested in the Office Action at page 2.

Claim 54 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 16, 17, 21, and 53-55 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Sokada et al. '583.

Claims 53-55 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Applicants note the Examiner's finding of Allowable Subject Matter in claims 1-15, 22-52, and 56-65, and of the Examiner's objection to claims 18-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, dependent claims 18 has been amended to be placed in independent form and to include all the limitations of

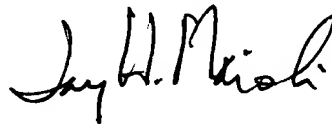
claim 16, and claim 16 has been canceled. Further, claims 17, 20, and 21 have been amended to depend from claim 18.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-15, 17-52, and 56-65 are in condition of allowance.

An early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay H. Maioli  
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JHM/PCF:tb